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January 25, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

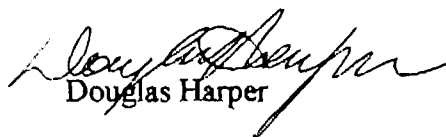
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am of the opinion that the antitrust lawsuit against Microsoft is unnecessary. I do not believe that Microsoft was guilty of antitrust violations in the first place. As a computer user I want an operating system that is complete, and a system that does not include an Internet browser is incomplete. Microsoft wants to be able to provide the best, most complete, products on the market. The addition of Internet Explorer is the natural progression of the Windows operating system. The grounds of this suit are faulty, and in my opinion the best resolution to this case is the dismissal of the charges.

On the other hand I feel that this case needs to come to an end, and the quickest way to accomplish this is to accept the terms of the settlement that was reached in early November. I feel that this settlement is a bit harsh, however Microsoft has committed themselves to the terms and are willing to make the necessary sacrifices to get this litigation finished, and themselves back to business. The terms require that Microsoft disclose information pertaining to the internal interface of the Windows operating system so that other companies can create products that work within the system. This term of the settlement in particular is extreme. It requires Microsoft to reveal information that was formerly known and kept as a trade secret. Terms of this nature have never been included in an antitrust settlement before, and its inclusion in this one is not necessary, however Microsoft has agreed to the settlement and therefore it should stand.

Thank you for all of the work that you have done to bring this suit to a close. Please continue to support American business and free enterprise in the future.

sincerely,


Douglas Harper